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Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700153

#### **A. List of Restoration Activities**

Restoration project and goals:

The goals for this project are to restore disturbed wilderness sites to their natural state and to prevent further incursion or accidental identification of sites as viable roads. The project has two components:

- 1.) Using heavy machinery to construct bolder-barriers on current trespass sites.
- 2.) The use of a Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew to employ conservation techniques; disguising tracks and jump-starting recovery among boulders in the disturbed tracks.

The 19194 California Desert Protection act included the El Paso Mountains as a Congressionally-mandated wilderness area, where by law, no vehicles are allowed to enter. since the El Paso Wilderness's inception, the BLM has made sure that the area is well signed, taking into account the particular areas where vehicles are no longer allowed to drive and. The signing is maintained by one park ranger who spends 25% of her time in this one area alone.

The efforts of this park ranger are further supplemented by law enforcement who replace signs that have been destroyed or removed between park ranger patrols of the area. At least one a week there is an official of some sort working on sinning in the El Paso.

Since 1994, the BLM has made multiple efforts to close the trespass routes in this proposal by signing, restoration, and simple hard vehicle barriers. Ridgecrest has had at least 2 SCA crews performing restoration alone on these trespass routes over the last 10-12 years. These efforts have been supplemented by volunteer crews organized by the wilderness coordinator. In many places, volunteer crews have redone restoration and built simple wood H-brace barriers across these trespass routes. These barriers incorporate signs establishing the wilderness boundary and prohibiting vehicle use. In many places, restoration and simple barriers have been largely ineffective as vehicle users have continued to drive around barriers and through restoration sites into wilderness. hence the need for a more sustainable and permanent method.

#### **B. How the Proposed Project Relates to OHV Recreation**

OHV activities on non-designated routes result in adverse effects to the natural landscape. This project will restore OHV effected Wilderness areas and prevent further degradation to these sites.

As previously mentioned, there has been an sassed need in the El Paso area, to prevent incursion onto the Wideness area. SCA will, as is characteristic of them, reach out to the local communities and those with interest, for help in the restoration process.

#### **C. Size of Project Site**

The Project will be working on 19 sites along the boundary of the El Paso Mountains Wilderness. Each site would be worked from the boundary road to line of sight. The range would be 0.1 miles to 0.5 miles, with an average of 0.3 miles. Total acreage worked would be about 6.6 miles. This would close more than 16 miles of active vehicle trespass routes inside wilderness. In effect, protecting all of the 23,659 acres of designated wilderness from OHV intrusions.

#### **D. Monitoring and Methodology**

The monitoring will be performed by both BLM and California Wilderness Coalition staff, and will be regularly monitored in increments throughout the restoration projects. These monitors will look for the following signs of restoration achievement:

- o Re-growth of native vegetation
- o Soil that is not compacted
- o Animal habitat restoration
- o No signs of OHV tracks
- o Sediment rehabilitation

o No signs of litter

**E. List of Reports**

Standard BLM Reports:

NEPA

Soil Conservation Plan

Habitat Management Plan

Monitoring Reports

Post completion Reports

**F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews**

does not apply

**G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area**

Because of the nature of restoration, implementation of an efficient protection plan is at the center of this project. The need to have a sustainable solution to wilderness incursion will be applied through the following methods:

o There is currently both a park ranger and law enforcement officials who patrol the area frequently.

o Barriers are the best solution for permanent and sustainable prevention of incursion.

in addition Ridgecrest has developed handouts on the El Pasos Mountains area generally and on the El Paso Mountains Wilderness specifically. These handouts are distributed by park and law enforcement rangers, by the Ridgecrest Field Office and by Jawbone Station. The handouts have maps and describe the rules and regulations governing these different areas. The Friends of Jawbone have included the El Paso Mountains in the OHV trail map they produce for the Ridgecrest Field Office area. On the Friends map, the El Paso Mountains Wilderness, along with the Kiavah, Owens Peak, Golden Valley and Grass Valley wildernesses are clearly drawn and are specified as areas that are off-limits to vehicles.

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**1. Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Map showing the wilderness sites](#)

[Second Map](#)

**2. Project-Specific Photos**

Attachments:

[photo OHV tracks over sign in El Paso](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: Student Conservation Association  
Application: El Paso CWC/SCA Restoration Project

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	Student Conservation Association		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	El Paso CWC/SCA Restoration Project	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Development</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education &amp; Safety</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Planning</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration</div> </div>		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Restoration project and goals:  The goals for this project are to restore disturbed wilderness sites to their natural state and to prevent further incursion or accidental identification of sites as viable roads. The project has two components:  1.) Using heavy machinery to construct bolder-barriers on current trespass sites.  2.) The use of a Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew to employ conservation techniques; disguising tracks and jump-starting recovery among boulders in the disturbed tracks.</p> <p>The 19194 California Desert Protection act included the El Paso Mountains as a Congressionally-mandated wilderness area, where by law, no vehicles are allowed to enter. since the El Paso Wilderness's inception, the BLM has made sure that the area is well signed, taking into account the particular areas where vehicles are no longer allowed to drive and. The signing is maintained by one park ranger who spends 25% of her time in this one area alone.</p> <p>The efforts of this park ranger are further supplemented by law enforcement who replace signs that have been destroyed or removed between park ranger patrols of the area. At least one a week there is an official of some sort working on sinning in the El Paso.</p> <p>Since 1994, the BLM has made multiple efforts to close the trespass routes in this proposal by signing, restoration, and simple hard vehicle barriers. Ridgecrest has had at least 2 SCA crews performing restoration alone on these trespass routes over the last 10-12 years. These efforts have been supplemented by volunteer crews organized by the wilderness coordinator. In many places, volunteer crews have redone restoration and built simple wood H-brace barriers across these trespass routes. These barriers incorporate signs establishing the wilderness boundary and prohibiting vehicle use. In many places, restoration and simple barriers have been largely ineffective as vehicle users have continued to drive around barriers and through restoration sites into wilderness. hence the need for a more sustainable and permanent method.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
1	Staff						
	Other-CWC Desert Director	1.000	12000.000	MOS	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
	Other-SCA Project Leader	1.000	24992.000	MOS	24,992.00	0.00	24,992.00
	Other-SCA Restoration Crew Member	6.000	9600.000	MOS	0.00	57,600.00	57,600.00
	Other-SCA Program staff	1.000	18000.000	MOS	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: Student Conservation Association  
Application: El Paso CWC/SCA Restoration Project

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-CWC Operations Staff Notes : it has been decided that there will be a staff member on the ground working with the SCA crew and surrounding communities.	1.000	12000.000	MOS	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				54,992.00	69,600.00	124,592.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Heavy Machinery operator	1.000	5000.000		5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Service Clothing	7.000	31.700		222.00	0.00	222.00
	Other-Restoration supplies and equipment	1.000	42600.000		42,600.00	0.00	42,600.00
	Other-Housing utilities and telephone	1.000	9700.000		9,700.00	0.00	9,700.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				52,522.00	0.00	52,522.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Equipment Rental	1.000	11000.000		11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00
	Other-Dump Truck	1.000	14000.000		14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	4x4 Vehicle	1.000	20500.000		20,500.00	0.00	20,500.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				45,500.00	0.00	45,500.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
	Other-Intern training and orientation	6.000	1000.000		6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
	Other-Project travel and field meals	1.000	3900.000		3,900.00	0.00	3,900.00
	Other-Risk Management	1.000	2500.000		2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Intern costs and insurance Notes : Risk Management includes a cell phone plan for both the Project leader and SCA crew, health insurance including an	6.000	2000.000		12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: Student Conservation Association  
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6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	evacuation plan, and first aid kit.						
	<b>Total for Others</b>				24,400.00	0.00	24,400.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
	Administrative Costs-SCA Administration	1.000	11505.000		11,505.00	0.00	11,505.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				193,919.00	69,600.00	263,519.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				193,919.00	69,600.00	263,519.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>193,919.00</b>	<b>69,600.00</b>	<b>263,519.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: Student Conservation Association  
Application: El Paso CWC/SCA Restoration Project

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	54,992.00	69,600.00	124,592.00	
2	Contracts	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	52,522.00	0.00	52,522.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	45,500.00	0.00	45,500.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	24,400.00	0.00	24,400.00	
7	Administrative Costs	11,505.00	0.00	11,505.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		193,919.00	69,600.00	263,519.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		193,919.00	69,600.00	263,519.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>193,919.00</b>	<b>69,600.00</b>	<b>263,519.00</b>	

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

The desert tortoise (federal-threatened) inhabits the proposed areas of restoration. Monitoring for signs of the desert tortoise is done prior to restoration. Protocols in the project environmental assessment specifically state that if signs of active or live tortoises are found, restoration of the site will not continue. Alternative Management decisions will be made in consultation with the BLM wildlife biologist.

Work required in advance of restoration projects includes preparation of categorical exclusions of environmental assessment of individual restoration projects planned for BLM lands in the California deserts. The California State Ecologist will serve as coordinator to ensure that all restoration projects proceed according to NEPA processes, including approval from BLM archaeologists and wildlife biologists responsible for attesting that restoration projects conserve or enhance cultural and biotic resources. And that the NEPA documents address conditions and concerns of all LM resource specialists. In addition, the BLM State Ecologist will work with the OHMRV Division's CEQUA specialist to ensure that all of the State of California concerns for CEQUA and the California Endangered Species Act are met or exceeded.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

the intended impacts are to benefit the existing ecosystems and public expectations: to restore habitats, and their native species (especially the desert tortoise) and desert ecosystems to desired condition and function. as well as to provide sustainable OHV recreation opportunities and access for individuals in the Southern California Desert. Ongoing coordinated land management that emphasizes law enforcement patrols, OHV trail Monitoring accurate and clear signing for designated routes and wilderness, and public outreach will cumulatively support initial restoration efforts.

It is not legal for there to be OHV activity in wilderness areas and this proposed project will restore the effected wilderness land, vegetation and habitat to it's original wild state. at the same time, signing will demonstrate where the variety of legal OHV routes are so that people can continue to enjoy the surrounding areas through OHV recreation.

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The implementation of the project will have soil disturbing practices, but these practices are for restoration of the natural positioning of the soil. there will be mild ground disturbances when the restoration crew uses trucks to bring in large boulders as a means of barricading the illegal routes. however, these tracks, like the OHV tracks, will be de-compacted and restored to original state preventing further erosion of the soil.



Illegal OHV tracks will be disguised and restored by Student Conservation Association techniques that have been well tested and yielded positive and successful results in the past. this entails de-compacting the soil and reintroducing native vegetation.

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

There are no highways designated as state scenic highways within the view of the proposed areas.

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

All indirect impacts of this project will be of a restorative nature. legally there can b no vehicle trespass into wilderness. there will be actuate signing to shown OHV users where the thousands of legal miles of OHV routes exist adjacent to the wilderness. it is not believed that closing these routes into wilderness will cause a damaging amount of OHV activity in another area, since the nearby areas are open and free to OHV use.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[NEPA Land Use Plan](#)  
[NEPA Compliance](#)  
[Short Note Transmittal](#)

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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.**

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 17

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)  
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points )  
☐ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)  
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)  
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [2]  
☒ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [3]  
☒ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [2]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Illegal OHV use has lead to soil erosion in the El Paso Wilderness area. The wilderness is being threatened. There are multiple species inhabiting the El Paso. there are a variety of native American cultural relics that have been sited in the El Paso wilderness. there are also a number of specials status and threatened species such as the Desert Tortoise and Mojave Ground Squirrel.

**3. Reason for Project - Q 3.**

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)  
☒ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)  
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)  
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)  
☐ Management decision (1 point)  
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)  
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration

**4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.**

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful

implementation 8

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☒ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☐ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Site monitoring by California Wilderness Coalition and BLM Staff

Construction of Barriers will be implemented by Student Conservation Association crew members and overseen by BLM and CWC Staff

**5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.**

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

The plan is to involve the public's opinion by announcing the project through the CWC's desert news letter, as well as asking for community volunteers to provide additional work support during the project's implementation.

**6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.**

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)  
☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)  
☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)  
☒ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

**7. Public Input - Q 7.**

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

CWC has worked with multiple stakeholders in public forums.

CWC and SCA have participated in Conference calls with organizations such as the BLM and Friends of the Inyo

**8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.**

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner

organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ 4 or more (4 points)

☒ 2 to 3 (2 points)

☐ 1 (1 point)

☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

California Wilderness Coalition

BLM

**9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.**

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)

☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)

☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)

☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

**10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.**

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

By constructing barriers as part of the restoration process, the OHV incursion will be prevented in future cases.

**11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.**

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)

☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)

☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)

☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)